THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Important measures suggested to States include:—

(i) improvements of sub-transmission and distribution systems;

(ii) reduction of lengths of Low Tension distribution lines and improvement of power factors; and

(iii) closer supervision and frequent inspections to reduce and eliminate pilferage of energy, and award deterrent punishment in cases detected.

(c) State Governments realise the importance of these measures and are adopting them.

Second line between Madras Beach and Villupuram

*140. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to lay a second line from Madras Beach Station to Villupuram; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) Construction of a second M.G. line from Tambaram to Chengalpattu (30.7 Kms.) has been approved in the Railway Budget 1985-86. There is no proposal at present for doubling of the section from Chengalpattu to Villupuram.

Conviction of and encounters with deserters from Punjab Regiment during the operation Blue Star

809. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of deserters from Punjab Regiment following the operation Blue Star who have been convicted and the sentences inflicted on them; and

(b) the number of deserters killed during encounters with the army and those facing trial?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Action as per law has not yet been completed.

The matter is currently *subjudice*.

Inquiry into desertion of troops in Bihar

810. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Court of Inquiry was ordered into desertion/mutiny of troops from the Sikh Regimental Centre in Bihar in June, 1984; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of this court of inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It will not be in the public interest to disclose further details.

Poor catering on Northern Railways

811. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a deterioration both in the quality and quantity of edibles sold at the railway stations of northern railways especially between Delhi and Allahabad Railway stations and that in some cases there has been complaints of poor service at the dining cars and the railway refreshment rooms; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to improve both the quality and quantity of edibles and also improve the service?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) No, Sir. The incidence of complaints in this regard has come down during the last one year.

(b) Constant efforts are being made to improve the quality of catering service by taking various measures such as intensive